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GH 4365

ANIMAL HEALTH CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO GREAT BRITAIN OF CAPRINE SEMEN FROM USA (NORTHEASTERN STATES ONLY)

The semen shall not be landed in Great Britain unless and until there is delivered to an officer of Customs and Excise at the port/airport of landing an import licence and a certificate signed by a full time salaried veterinary officer of the Federal Government of the USA giving the following information and stating:-

DETAILS REQUIRED

1. (i) the name and address of the approved semen production centre on which the goat was resident at the time of semen collection;

(ii) Country and State of birth;

(iii) date of entry into USA if applicable;

(iv) the identity, breed, date of birth, and ear mark of the donor sheep/goat;

(v) the dates of collection of the semen to be exported, (collection to be confined to any 3 month period of time);

(vi) the number of straws of semen;

(vii) the indelible identification marking on the ampoules or straws of semen;

(viii) individual identification marking of official tamper proof seal on flask containing semen for export.

COUNTRY DISEASE CLEARANCE

2. No clinical or other evidence of foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, peste des petits ruminants, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, contagious agalactia, Rift Valley fever, sheep pox, lumpy skin disease, goat pox, or congenital arthrogryposis hydranencephaly syndrome (Aino or Akabane virus infections) has occurred in the USA during the 12 month period prior to the first collection and until the date of despatch of the semen to Great Britain, nor has vaccination against these diseases been practiced during this period.

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AREA/STATE DISEASE CLEARANCE

3. No clinical evidence of vesicular stomatitis has occurred in the State where the donor goat has been resident or within 100 km of the semen production centre during the 6 month period prior to the first collection of semen for export and until despatch of the semen to Great Britain.

SEMEN FOR EXPORT

4. The dates of collection referred to in paragraph I(v) must be during the fly free season ie between lst December and 15th April.

RESIDENCY OF DONOR GOAT

5. The donor goat has been continually resident in the area comprising of the following States for at least 6 months immediately preceding the first collection of semen for export:- Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, Delaware, Maryland, North Dakota and West Virginia.

6. The donor goat and all teasers have been kept continuously at the approved semen production centre mentioned at paragraph l(i), for at least 3 months immediately preceding collection, and the donor goat has not been used for natural mating during that period.

APPROVED SEMEN PRODUCTION CENTRE FOR EXPORT TO GREAT BRITAIN

7. The semen production centre must be situated in one of the States listed at paragraph 5.

8. The semen production centre for the export of semen to Great Britain must be approved by full time salaried veterinary officer of the Federal Government of the USA.

9. An accredited veterinarian designated by the Federal Government must personally supervise the collection, processing, packaging, freezing and transfer to quarantine of semen for export to Great Britain.

10. During the 3 month period prior to the commencement of collections for export and during the period of collections for export, all animals moved on to the approved semen production centre must be tested with negative results by the agar gel immunodiffusion test (AGID) or the blocking enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for bluetongue and the AGID for epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer virus (EHDV) using Alberta and New Jersey antigens immediately prior to movement onto the approved semen production centre.

11. During the collection period of the semen for export to Great Britain, the approved semen production centre must be a self-contained unit with separate stockmen, machinery and equipment.

12. All semen for export to Great Britain must be collected, processed, and frozen at the approved semen production centre.

13. The semen for export to Great Britain must be collected, and processed at the beginning of each day before any semen from other animals standing at the approved semen production centre is processed. All equipment used for collection, dilution and packaging of semen for export to Great Britain must be cleansed and disinfected before use and must not have been used in the previous 12 hours.

14. The semen for export to Great Britain must be frozen in liquid nitrogen containers or other freezing equipment which has been cleansed and disinfected prior to the processing of semen for export to Great Britain at the approved semen production centre. Semen not intended for export to Great Britain should not be frozen in this equipment until the semen intended for export has been frozen and removed from the equipment.

NOTE 1: An approved semen production centre comprises all buildings and animals within a given curtilage.

SEMEN PRODUCTION CENTRE - DISEASE CLEARANCE

15. No clinical or other evidence of bluetongue or epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer has occurred on the premises at paragraph l(i) during the period of 12 months preceding the last collection of semen for export.

16. During the period of 12 months preceding the first collection and until 28 days after the last collection of semen for export to Great Britain all animals at the premises at paragraph l(i) have been free from clinical or other evidence of tuberculosis, brucellosis, (including Brucella abortus, Brucella melitensis and Brucella ovis) Jaagsiekte, Johne's disease, rabies, scrapie, maedi/visna, contagious agalactia (including infections with Mycoplasma agalactiae, M.capricolum, and M.mycoides subspecies mycoides large colony type M. mycoides subspecies capri M.bovis and M.putrefaciens), contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, caprine arthritis encephalitis syndrome, Corynebacterium ovis infection, ovine or caprine enzootic (chlamydial) abortion, Campylobacter fetus infection, Aino, Akabane, and from clinical evidence of leptospirosis and border disease (ruminant pestivirus).

17. During the period of collection of semen for export to Great Britain, there have been no signs of infectious or contagious disease in any animals at the semen production centre at which the collection of semen for export to Great Britain was made.

ROUTINE TESTING AT SEMEN PRODUCTION CENTRE

18. During the 12 months prior to first collection of semen for export to Great Britain

all animals (including teaser animals) at the premises listed at l(i) were subjected to the following tests and no animals entered the centre unless similarly tested with negative results:

(i) the tuberculin test using bovine tuberculin and interpreted as negative according to USDA standards;

(ii) the complement fixation test for mycoplasmosis using Mycoplasma agalactiae, M.capricolum, M.mycoides subspecies mycoides large colony, M. mycoides sub species capri, M.putrefaciens and M.bovis antigens (negative is less than 50% fixation at a dilution of 1:20);

(iii) the complement fixation tests for brucellosis using Brucella abortus and Brucella ovis antigens and interpreted as negative according to USDA standards.

CAPRINE ARTHRITIS-ENCEPHALITIS STATUS AND TESTING

19. *Either A. For Semen Production Centres registered under an official caprine arthritis-encephalitis herd accreditation scheme recognized by MAFF, Great Britain

The donor and any teaser animals used originated in an accredited herd and since moving from the flock of origin to the Semen Production Centre and until after the last collection of semen for export have maintained their accredited status.

*Or B. For Semen Production Centres not registered as caprine arthritis-encephalitis Accredited

(i) The donor goat and any teasers to be used were not less than 12 months old at the time they entered the Semen Production Centre. They were twice subjected to the agar gel immunodiffusion test (AGID) for caprine arthritis-encephalitis (CAE), using CAE antigen with a negative result in each case. The first test must be carried out immediately before the animals enter the Centre, the second test must be carried out not less than 6 months after the first test.

(ii) After entering the Centre and until the last collection of semen for export the donor goat and teasers were maintained as a group in isolation and did not come into contact with other goats or goat products.

(iii) Semen collection can begin as soon as the 3 months residency (at paragraph 6) has been completed. Semen collected before the 2nd test at paragraph 19(i) is not eligible for export until that test has been carried out with negative results.

*INDICATE WHICH OPTION APPLIES

TESTING AND TREATMENT OF DONOR GOAT AND TEASERS

20. During the 28 day period immediately preceding the first collection of semen for export, the donor goat and any teaser animals used during the collection of semen for export have been subjected to the following:

(i) Either

*(a) the microscopic agglutination test using live antigen for leptospira serotypes australis, grippotyphosa, pomona and tarassovi with negative results (negative is less than 50% agglutination at a serum dilution of 1 in 100);

Or

*(b) received 2 injections of dihydrostreptomycin (25 mg per kg live body weight) at an interval of 14 days, the second injection being given not more than 24 hours before the date of the first collection of semen for export.

*INDICATE WHICH OPTION HAS BEEN FOLLOWED.

(ii) the serum neutralization test for vesicular stomatitis using New Jersey and Indiana antigens.

(iii) the agar gel immunodiffusion test or the blocking ELISA for bluetongue.

(iv) the agar gel immunodiffusion test for epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) using Alberta and New Jersey strain antigens.

21. In so far as can be ascertained and having clinically examined the donor goat:

i) does not show any evidence of genetic defects;

ii) has not produced any progeny showing any evidence of lethal recessive factors and is not suspected of carrying any such factors; and

iii) no significant genetic abnormality has been recorded in the ancestry or progeny of the donor animal.

SEMEN EXAMINATIONS

22. An aliquot of fresh undiluted semen from each day's collection intended for export was subjected to a cultural examination for the presence of Mycoplasma agalactiae, M.capricolum, M.mycoides subspecies large colony, M.mycoides subspecies capri, M.putrefaciens, M.bovis, with negative results.

SEMEN PROCESSING

23. The semen diluent has been prepared under hygienic conditions from:

i) eggs obtained from a flock of birds in the USA which is a member of the Specific Pathogen Avian Flocks Scheme and certified free of clinical and serological evidence of avian influenza and Newcastle disease by an accredited veterinarian.

AND/OR

ii) fresh or skimmed milk of USA origin, subjected to a minimum temperature of 88oC (190oF) for a minimum period of 2 minutes;

24. Antibiotics have been added to the semen to produce not less than the following concentrations in the diluted semen:-

Either	500 ug/ml	Dihydrostreptomycin	OR	50 ug/ml Tylosin
	500 iu/ml	Penicillin		250 ug/ml Gentamycin
	150 ug/ml	Lincomycin		150 ug/ml Lincomycin
	300 ug/ml	Spectinomycin		300 ug/ml Spectinomycin

SEMEN STORAGE AND QUARANTINE

25. Semen for export to Great Britain must be stored in separate flasks which had been emptied and thoroughly cleansed and disinfected since any previous use and contain fresh liquid nitrogen not previously used for any other purpose.

26. After processing and until dispatch to Great Britain (which shall not be until the result of the post collection tests are known and the original animal health certificate has been returned from Great Britain after scrutiny (see Note 5), the semen for export to Great Britain must be stored under quarantine conditions approved by the Federal Government of the USA and under the control of an accredited veterinarian designated by the Government of the USA.

POST COLLECTION TESTING OF DONOR GOAT

27. After a period of at least 28 days has elapsed from the date of the last collection of semen for export, the donor goat was subjected to the following tests with negative results:

(i) the complement fixation test for brucellosis using Brucella abortus antigen (negative is a reaction of less than 8.3 icftu/ml);

(ii) the complement fixation test for brucellosis using Brucella ovis antigen (a negative result is no reaction at a dilution of 1 in 5);

(iii) the agar gel immunodiffusion test or enzyme linked immunosorbent assay for caprine arthritis-encephalitis syndrome (CAES) using CAES antigen;

(iv) complement fixation test for mycoplasmosis using Mycoplasma agalactiae, M.capricolum, M.mycoides subspecies mycoides large colony, M. mycoides sub species capri, M.bovis and M.putrefaciens (negative is less than 50% fixation at a dilution of 1 in 20);

(v) the serum neutralization test for vesicular stomatitis using Indiana and New Jersey antigens.

(vi) the agar gel immunodiffusion test or the blocking enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for bluetongue;

(vii) the agar gel immunodiffusion test for EHD using Alberta and New Jersey antigens;

(viii) a virus isolation or detection test on a blood sample (fluorescent antibody test or immuno peroxidase-test) for Border disease (ruminant pestivirus);

(ix) the serum neutralization test for bovine herpesvirus 6 (caprine herpesvirus).

POST COLLECTION CERTIFICATION OF SEMEN PRODUCTION CENTRE

28. During the 28 days following the last collection of semen for export there have been no signs or symptoms of infectious or contagious disease in any animals at the semen production centre at which the collection of semen for export to Great Britain was made.

SHIPMENT OF SEMEN

29. The flask in which the semen is being exported to Great Britain was sealed immediately prior to export with an individually marked official tamper proof seal in the presence of a full time salaried veterinary officer of the Federal Government of the USA.

NOTES:

2. Semen is not accepted in pellet form.

3. All laboratory tests are to be carried out at an officially approved laboratory details of which must be shown within the export certification. Dates of all examinations, tests and treatments (as appropriate) must be shown in the export certification.

4. Applications for import licenses must be submitted to the Ministry/Department as under:

For port of entry in England:

The Secretary
Animal Health Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Hook Rise South
Tolworth
Surbiton
Surrey KT6 7NF

For port of entry in Scotland:

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland
Animal Welfare Branch'
Chesser House
500 Gorgie Road

Edinburgh
Scotland EHll 3AW

For port of entry in Wales:

Welsh Office Agriculture Department
Cathays Park
Cardiff
Wales

5. At the time of application for an import licence the original animal health certificate or a certified copy from an official source must be submitted for scrutiny. Paragraphs relating to country disease clearance and sealing of flasks need not be completed at this time. This certificate will be returned and must accompany the semen into Great Britain after it has been finally completed and signed by the certifying veterinary officer.

6. The semen must arrive in Great Britain in a flask which has been sealed in the presence of the certifying veterinary officer.